

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 1160.214

(1) The granted funds shall be utilized to implement a fluid milk promotion campaign within the markets within those regions. Verification of the implementation of this program shall be provided to the Board.

(2) The Board shall ensure that the recipients of these funds implement a research and evaluation program to determine the effect of such program on consumption of fluid milk within the region.

(3) The recipient of these funds must provide to the Board data from the research and evaluation programs so that the Board can determine the effect of the program on consumption of fluid milk.

§ 1160.211 Assessments.

(a)(1) Each fluid milk processor shall pay to the Board or its designated agent an assessment of \$.20 per hundredweight of fluid milk products processed and marketed commercially in consumer-type packages in the United States by such fluid milk processor. Any fluid milk processor who markets milk of its own production directly to consumers as prescribed under section 113(g) of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4504(g)), and not exempt under §1160.108 or §1160.215, shall also pay the assessment under this subpart. The Secretary shall have the authority to receive assessments on behalf of the Board.

(2) The Secretary shall announce the establishment of the assessment each month in the Class I price announcement in each milk marketing area by adding it to the Class I price for the following month. In the event the assessment is suspended for a given month, the Secretary shall inform all fluid milk processors of the suspension in the Class I price announcement for that month. The Secretary shall also inform fluid milk processors marketing fluid milk in areas not subject to milk marketing orders administered by the Secretary of the establishment or suspension of the assessment.

(3) Each processor responsible for remitting an assessment shall remit it to the Board not later than the last day of the month following the month that the assessed milk was marketed.

(b) Such assessments shall not:

(1) Reduce the prices paid under the Federal milk marketing orders issued under section 8c of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608c), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937;

(2) Otherwise be deducted from the amounts that handlers must pay to producers for fluid milk products sold to a processor; or

(3) Otherwise be deducted from the price of milk paid to a producer by a handler, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) Money remitted to the Board or the Board's designated agent shall be in the form of a negotiable instrument made payable to the Board or its agent, as the case may be. Processors must mail remittances and reports specified in §§1160.108, 1160.211(a)(1), 1160.213, 1160.214, and 1160.401 to the location designated by the Board or its agent.

[58 FR 62503, Nov. 29, 1993, as amended at 62 FR 3983, Jan. 28, 1997; 70 FR 2753, Jan. 14, 2005]

§ 1160.212 Influencing governmental action.

No funds collected by the Board under this subpart shall in any manner be used for the purpose of influencing governmental policy or action, except to recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 1160.213 Adjustment of accounts.

Whenever the Board or the Secretary determines through an audit of a processor's reports, records, books or accounts or through some other means that additional money is due the Board or to such processor from the Board, the Board shall notify that person of the amount due or overpaid. If the processor owes money to the Board, it shall remit that amount by the next date for remitting assessments as provided in §1160.211. If the processor has overpaid, that amount shall be credited to its account and applied against amounts due in succeeding months.

§ 1160.214 Charges and penalties.

(a) Late-payment charge. Any unpaid assessments shall be increased 1.5 percent each month beginning with the day following the date such assessments were due. Any remaining

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amount due, which shall include any unpaid charges previously made pursuant to this section, shall be increased at the same rate on the corresponding day of each month thereafter until paid. For the purpose of this section, any assessment determined at a date later than prescribed by this subpart because of the failure of a processor to submit a report to the Board when due shall be considered to have been payable by the date it would have been due if the report had been filed when due. The receipt of a payment by the Board will be based on the earlier of the postmark date or the actual date of receipt.

(b) Penalties. The Secretary may assess any person who violates any provision of this subpart a civil penalty of not less than nor more than the minimum and maximum amounts specified in § 3.91(b)(1)(xxxv) of this title for each such violation. In the case of a willful failure to pay an assessment as required by this subpart, in addition to the amount due, the Secretary may assess an additional penalty of not less than nor more than the minimum and maximum amounts specified in § 3.91(b)(1)(xxxv) of this title for each such violation. The amount of any such penalty shall accrue to the United States, which may recover such amount in a civil suit. The remedies provided in this section are in addition to, and not exclusive of, other remedies that may be available by law or in equity.

[58 FR 62503, Nov. 29, 1993, as amended at 70 FR 29579, May 24, 2005]

§ 1160.215 Assessment exemption.

(a) No assessment shall be required on fluid milk products exported from the United States.

(b) A fluid milk processor described in § 1160.211(a) who operates under an approved National Organic Program (NOP) (7 CFR part 205) system plan; processes only products that are eligible to be labeled as 100 percent organic under the NOP; and is not a split operation shall be exempt from the payment of assessments.

(c) To apply for an assessment exemption, a fluid milk processor described in § 1160.211(a) shall submit a request for exemption to the Board on a form provided by the Board at any

time initially and annually thereafter on or before July 1 as long as the fluid milk processor continues to be eligible for the assessment exemption.

(d) The request shall include the following: The fluid milk processor's name and address, a copy of the organic farm or organic handling operation certificate provided by a USDA-accredited certifying agent as defined in section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502), a signed certification that the applicant meets all of the requirements specified in paragraph (b) of this section for an assessment exemption, and such other information as may be required by the Board and with the approval of the Secretary.

(e) The Board will grant an assessment exemption to any fluid milk processor meeting the criteria in § 1160.215(b) and issue a Certificate of Exemption to the fluid milk processor. For exemption requests received on or before August 15, 2005, the Board will have 60 days to approve the exemption request; after August 15, 2005, the Board will have 30 days to approve the exemption request. If the application is disapproved, the Board will notify the applicant of the reason(s) for disapproval within the same timeframe.

(f) The exemption will apply not later than the last day of the month following the Certificate of Exemption issuance date.

[70 FR 2754, Jan. 14, 2005]

PROMOTION, CONSUMER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

§ 1160.301 Promotion, consumer education and research.

(a) The Board shall receive and evaluate, or on its own initiative develop, and submit to the Secretary for approval any plans or projects authorized in §§ 1160.208 and 1160.209. Such plans or projects shall provide for:

(1) The establishment, issuance, effectuation, and administration of consumer education, promotion and research activities with respect to fluid milk products; and

(2) The evaluation of consumer education, promotion and research activities implemented under the direction of the Board, and the communication